

From: Wally Sykes [<mailto:captmayo@eoni.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 25, 2016 2:46 PM

To: Pena, James - FS [REDACTED]

Cc: Montoya, Tom -FS <tmontoya@fs.fed.us>; Stein, Kris -FS <krisstein@fs.fed.us>;

Karen_Wagner@merkley.senate.gov; kathleen_cathey@wyden.senate.gov;

mary_gautreaux@wyden.senate.gov

Subject:Lostine River Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Pena:

I am writing to object to the proposed Lostine River Corridor Safety Project, not only due to the actual details of the cut, but for a persistent policy of misleading the public.

As a member of the Willowa-Whitman Forest Collaborative, I'm aware of the close attention paid by the FS to using key words in their media outreach that explicitly link much of the timber harvests in logging projects like that of the Lostine River and the Upper Imnaha River corridor to "public safety" and the removal of "hazard" trees. Furthermore, NF media releases have made claims of stakeholder and landowner collaboration and support in the project when such support is minimal or non-existent. It's pretty clear to me that the FS is misrepresenting projects to avoid objections. The Lostine Project should be subject to a thoroughly transparent public process which includes offerings of alternatives to the existing plan.

The Lostine Corridor is an extremely popular recreational area, appreciated for its wildness and beauty, its wildlife and old-growth timber, it's fishing, it's secluded undeveloped campsites along the river. Treatments and logging should not be done at the expense of these assets. Any road-building, temporary or not, should be precluded. Clear-cuts in the name of meadow creation and fire breaks should be thoroughly and transparently justified.

This project should be subject to the NEPA process.

Thanks for your attention to these concerns,

Wally Sykes

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